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Stamas to Host Forestry Hearing in Grayling

LANSING – One of a series of hearings, discussing ideas for improved stewardship and health Michigan’s forests, will come to Grayling next week. The Senate Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism Committee and the House of Representatives Agriculture and Resource Management Subcommittee on Forestry and Mineral Rights will hold a Joint House and Senate Committee will also include stops in Lansing and Escanaba.

“Forestry has a tremendous impact on Michigan as a whole, from tourism and recreational use, to important PILT payments made to local governments,” Stamas said. “The 36th district has many ties to all aspects of this issue and I believe it is important to hear the thoughts of people whose livelihood depend on this industry.” The hearings are part of the Michigan Healthy Forest Initiative for the 21st Century, in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the state forestry system.

The hearings objectives include but are not limited to the following:

- Promote and encourage the use of state forests for forest products, tourism and outdoor recreation;
- Ensure public forests meet the relevant needs of local communities, outdoor recreation, and forest product and tourism industries;
- Incorporate biodiversity and conservation goals in the landscape of management of state forests;
- Establish statutory standards for sustainable forestry; and
- Identify environmentally sensitive areas for additional protection.

The hearing will begin at 6 p.m., Sept. 25, at the Grayling City hall, 1020 City Blvd and will open with invited testimony with time available at the end for public comment.

“To ensure the best use, enjoyment and preservation of our natural resources for generations to come requires input from many different perspectives,” Stamas said. “I believe these hearings will lead to productive, bipartisan legislation to accomplish that end.”

WHAT: Forestry Hearings

WHEN: 6 p.m., Sept. 25

WHERE: Grayling City Hall, 1020 City Blvd.